LPG agencies in Gujarat

1628. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies functioning in Gujarat;

(b) the number of LPG agencies opened during the last two years;

(c) the number of applications for LPG agencies pending till date; and

(d) the time by which these applications will be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating 449 LPG distributorships in the State of Gujarat.

(b) OMCs have commissioned 28 LPG distributorships during the last 2 years.

(c) and (d) At present, OMCs are heving 145 locations pending for commissioning of LPG distributorships in the State of Gujarat under the various Marketing Plans. The selection of LPG distributorship is a continuous process and it is not possible to indicate a definite time frame by which these distributorships are likely to be commissioned.

Regulatory Board for prices of petroleum products

1629. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to establish a regulatory board to replace the present system to control the prices of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details worked out in this regard; and

(d) by when this regulatory board is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The process of establishing a Downstream Petroleum Sector Regulatory Board in order

to maintain uninterrupted supply of petroleum products in all the places in the country at reasonable prices in the deregulated scenario, is on.

Special Concession to Kargil Martyrs

†1630. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether petrol pumps and gas agencies have been allotted to all the dependents of the martyrs/soldiers of Kargil war;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for delay in this regard;

(c) by when, all the dependents of martyrs/soldiers of Kargil war would be allotted petrol pumps and gas agencies; and

(d) whether special concession has been given by Government in allotting petrol pumps and gas agencies to the dependents of martyrs/ soldiers of Kargil war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships is made under the Special Scheme to widows/next of kin of Defence personnel killed in action in OP Vijay (Kargil) on the recommendations of the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence. So far, recommendations in respect of 455 cases have been received from the DGR, out of which allotment of dealerships/distributorships to 429 beneficiaries has been approved by the Government.

Under the Special Scheme, the retail outlets/LPG distributorships are constructed by the Oil Companies at their expense and then are allotted to the beneficiaries for operation.

Delay in allotment of agencies to Kargil Martyrs

†1631. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the members of Kargil martyrs' family who applied for the petrol/diesel/gas agencies by 15th November, 2001 alongwith the number out of those allotted with the said agencies; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.